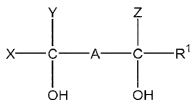


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the preparation of a polymerisable composition comprising a cross-linker and a polymerisable monomer of formula I

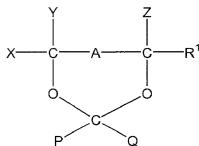
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(I)

comprising the steps of:

10 (i) contacting a compound of formula II



(II)

with an immobilised acid,

wherein X, Y, Z, R¹, P and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen and wherein A is (CH₂)_n, wherein n is 0 or 1;

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(ii) neutralising the product of step (i) such that the cross-linker is formed.

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is a strong acid.

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3. A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is immobilised on an ion exchange resin.

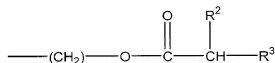
4. A process according to claim 1 wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen.

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5. A process according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and hydrocarbyl esters, preferably unsaturated hydrocarbyl esters.

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6. A process according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a group of formula III



(III)

wherein R² is selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl and R³ is selected from an unsaturated C₁₋₅ alkyl.

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7. A process according to claim 6 wherein R² is CH₃ and R³ is =CH₂.

8. A process according to claim 1 wherein X is H, Y is H, Z is H, n=0, R¹ is a group of formula III, in which R² is CH₃ and R³ is =CH₂.

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9. A process according to claim 1 comprising providing means for containing the immobilised acid, contacting the immobilised acid with the compound of formula II and passing a gas through the immobilised acid.

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10. A process according to claim 9 wherein the gas is air.

11. A process according to claim 9 wherein the immobilised acid is contacted with the compound of formula II in the absence of an organic solvent.

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12. A process according to claim 1 step (i) is performed in the presence of water.

13. A process according to claim 9 wherein the means for containing the immobilised acid comprises a fluidised bed reactor.

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14. A process according to claim 9 wherein the process comprises extracting the gas from the means for containing the immobilised acid after the gas has passed through the immobilised acid.

- 5 15. A process according to claim 1 wherein the process further comprises the step of polymerising the polymerisable monomer of formula I.

16. A process according to claim 15 wherein the acid formed during the process is methacrylic acid.

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17. A process according to claim 15 wherein the acid formed during the process is acrylic acid.

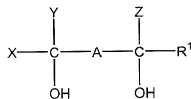
18. A process according to claim 15 further comprising forming an ocular device
15 from the polymer.

19. A polymerisable monomer, polymer or composition obtainable in accordance with process as defined in claim 1.

- 20 20. A polymerisable monomer, polymer or composition obtained in accordance with a process as defined in claim 1.

21. An ocular device prepared in accordance with a process as defined in claim 18.

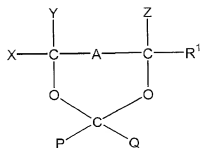
- 25 22. A process for the preparation of a polymerisable composition comprising a cross-linker and a polymerisable monomer of formula I



(I)

- 30 comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a compound of formula II



(II)

- 5 with an immobilised acid,
having a pKa of less than 3,

wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen, R¹ is selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrocarbyl esters, Z, P and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen, and wherein A is (CH₂)_n wherein n is 0 or 1;

(ii) neutralising the product of step (i) such that the cross-linker is formed.